

Meeting Minutes

Transportation Advisory Committee

October 18, 2017, 7:15 pm to 9:30 pm, Town Hall 2nd floor conf. room

Present: Wayne Chouinard, Seth Federspiel, Chuck Giroux, Pam Heidell, Jeff Maxtutis, Marjorie Moores, Howard Muise, Corey Rateau, Victor Rivas, Scott Smith (left at 7:30 pm)

Missing members: Mike Gordon, Brian Kmetz, Melissa Laube, Laura Wiener

Non-Members Present: None

Administration. Minutes of 9/13/17 approved unanimously. No correspondence received.

Public Comments. No members of the public were in attendance.

Town Issues.

- Wayne provided updates on town construction, the Arlington Center Safe Travel Project, the Lake Street/Bikeway Signalization Design Review Committee meetings, the Mystic Street Bridge, and the Traffic Signal Prioritization Working Group. Wayne noted that the Town plans to change the HAWK signal at Mass Ave/Swan Place to a conventional traffic signal. In consultation with the state and based on feedback from the public, it was determined the HAWK signal was not the best application for that location. The change will include new pavement markings and the installation of bike signals. Wayne summarized what happened at the October 17 public meeting regarding the 75 percent plan for a signal at the intersection of Lake Street and the Minuteman Bikeway. Considering input received, the design review committee will hold an additional meeting and proceed with 100 percent design. The 75 percent plan was submitted for Complete Streets funding on October 2.
- Corey indicated he is teaching part of the Citizen Police Training Academy. Pam noted she is participating in the Academy and has found it very interesting and informative. Corey also discussed a citizen request for a four-way STOP at Broadway and Wyman. Currently there are STOP signs on Wyman and Corey does not think it's appropriate to add STOP signs on Broadway.
- Laura was not present to present Planning Department report.

Bike Share. This agenda item was moved up so Scott could participate in the discussion. Seth reported that the Town had drafted regulations related to bike-sharing, especially to be able to exercise some control over potential dockless systems. These were to be reviewed and voted on at the Board of Selectmen meeting on September 25. Given that it was likely no system would be initiated this late in the year, the Board voted to postpone action until the spring. This will provide time to determine Hubway's expectations for new communities, which are likely to be determined by the end of the calendar year. The MAPC is leading that effort. Seth indicated that Somerville and Cambridge have given Hubway exclusive rights. This could complicate adoption of a dockless system in Arlington. Washington D.C. has both docking and dockless systems operating within the city. Seth also noted that Lexington signed a 2 year contract with Zagster. At its September meeting, the TAC had voted to have the chairman draft a letter to the Selectmen and Town Manager expressing the TAC's desire to have an opportunity to review any bike-sharing program before it is implemented. Because of changes in the TAC's understanding of the situation and proposed Board action, the chair elected not to write and send the letter.

Town Day. Howard asked for input from those who manned the booth. The dominant topics were the proposed signal at Lake and the Bikeway, and the changes in Arlington Center. There

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seemed to be strong sentiment in favor of the signal on Lake Street. The Jeopardy Board was only occasionally used.

Gibbs School. The working group has held three meetings, including one with the architect. They are considering a crosswalk across Foster at Andrew. The school plans drop-off and pick-up on both Foster and Tufts Streets. This will include two buses making two trips each. There will be more drop-off and pick-up activity than with the Lesley Ellis School. The group discussed possible parking restrictions on Foster and greater use of school buses. Corey suggested that parking restrictions might be opposed by residents on the street. There was also discussion of school buses possibly using the parking lot for drop-off and pick-up. This would likely require an additional driveway off Tufts Street.

Speed Safety Zones. Corey is still trying to get clarification on the requirements for having an engineering study to establish a speed safety zone. It's unclear how an engineering study would justify establishing a speed safety zone. An engineering study would likely find that the 85th percentile speed is above the 20 mph speed limit designated by a speed safety zone. Jeff will dig out the existing information we have for the intersection of Herbert at Magnolia and Howard will review data for Jason Street at the entrance to Menotomy Rocks Park. Both areas have been suggested as possible locations for speed safety zones.

School Zones. Corey indicated that the TAC should present school zone proposals for the Ottoson, Brackett and Gibbs Schools. Marjorie will finalize recommendations for all three schools for TAC to review.

Pedestrian Flags for Mass Ave at Varnum Street. Howard confirmed that there was a commitment to maintain the flags, Mike installed the canisters flags, and Corey supplied the flags.

Adjourned at 9:30 PM.

- Meeting Materials:
 - Meeting Packet for October: Agenda 10/18/17; Minutes of 9/13/17; Individual Action List 9/13/17; Project List 9/13/17.
 - Memo to TAC from Wayne Chouinard, TAC Update Items, 10/18/17.